

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Neurology</b>				
Nerve damage	Nicotinamide nucleotide adenyltransferase 2 (NMNAT2)	<p>Studies in cell culture suggest that increasing NMNAT2 levels could help prevent nerve damage. In murine neurons, small interfering RNA-mediated knockdown of <i>Nmnat2</i> increased signs of neurite degeneration compared with that seen using control siRNAs. In damaged neurons, compared with controls, increasing <i>Nmnat2</i> levels protected neurites from degeneration. Next steps include conducting studies to evaluate the effects of NMNAT2 <i>in vivo</i> and identifying the upstream and downstream factors that influence the protein's neuroprotective effects.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.195</b>            Published online Feb. 11, 2010</p>	<p>Patent application filed; licensed to an undisclosed party; available for licensing from Babraham Bioscience Technologies Ltd.</p>	<p>Gilley, J. &amp; Coleman, M.P. <i>PLoS Biol.</i>; published online Jan. 25, 2010; doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000300  <b>Contact:</b> Michael P. Coleman, The Babraham Institute, Cambridge, U.K.            e-mail: <a href="mailto:michael.coleman@bbsrc.ac.uk">michael.coleman@bbsrc.ac.uk</a></p>